

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0014] A balance shaft 24, generally parallel to the drive shaft 12, extends between a gear end 26 and a distal end 28. The balance shaft 24 is journaled to the housing 11. The balance shaft 24 includes at least two axially spaced offset masses 25, 27. A driven gear 30 is fixedly secured to the gear end 26 of the balance shaft 24. The driven gear 30 is engaged with the drive gear 22 to cause rotation of the balance shaft 24 in response to rotation of the drive shaft 12. Preferably, the driven gear 30 has a smaller diameter than that of the drive gear 22 so that the balance shaft 24 rotates at a higher speed than the drive shaft 12.--

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0015] The housing 11 includes a sprocket side 32 and a pump side 40. The sprocket side 32 extends between an upper end 34 and a lower end 36. The pump side 40 extends between an upper end 42 and a lower end 44. A base 46 extends between the lower ends 36, 44 of the sprocket 32 and pump 40 sides, respectively. A first bore 48 is formed in the sprocket side 32 for supporting the gear end 26 of the balance shaft 24 therethrough. A second bore 50 is formed in the pump side 34 40 for supporting the distal end 28 of the balance shaft 24 therethrough. The first 48 and second 50 bores define a first axis 52. The balance shaft 24 rotates about the first axis 52.--

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0016] A tube 54 is secured to the upper end 36 34 of the sprocket side 32 of the housing 11. A cylindrical third bore 56 is defined by the tube 54 for supporting the sprocket end 14 of

the drive shaft 12. A The pump housing 58 is secured to the upper end 42 of the pump side 40 of the housing 11. A fourth bore 60 is formed in the pump housing 58 for supporting the pump end 16 of the drive shaft 12. The third 56 and fourth 60 bores define a second axis 62. The drive shaft 12 rotates about the second axis 62. The pump 20 is enclosed in the pump housing 58 which is attached to the housing 11.--

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- [0018] For comparative purposes, a conventional oil pump drive assembly for an automobile engine is generally indicated at 110 in Figure 3 2. The conventional oil pump drive assembly 110 includes a balance shaft 112 extending longitudinally between an input end 114 and an output end 116. A driven gear 118 is secured to the input end 114. A rear drive gear 120 is secured to the output end 116. A drive gear 122 is engaged with the driven gear 118 for rotating the driven gear 118 and the balance shaft 112 in response to rotation of the drive gear 122. A first shaft 124 extends axially between a drive gear end 126 secured to the drive gear 122 and a sprocket end 128. A sprocket 130 is fixedly secured to the sprocket end 128 of the first shaft 124. A rear driven gear 132 is engaged with the rear drive gear 120 for rotation of the rear driven gear 132 in response to rotation of the balance shaft 112. A second shaft 134 extends axially between a driven gear end 136 secured to the rear driven gear 132 and a pump end 138. A pump 140 is coupled to the pump end 138 of the second shaft 134 for actuation of the pump 140 in response to rotation of the rear driven gear 132.--